

you will get into Difficulties by his Promulgation
of the Slave you will be obliged for following my Letter, to clear up your
Business. I enclose to you a Slave purchased by Mr. Gilpin of W. May, as
you requested me to do last year, under the Request of the Council & myself. You
are in no way responsible in making use of any Thing from me, to clear up the
Purposes of Justice; I shall take the same Freedom, whenever necessary
to use my Power, without thinking it do a Misf and now inclose you
of the N. H. Gouverneur Morris to our Delegates which they inclosed to us
to give us, with Regard to the Purchase & Disposition of the Slave. Refusing
that the Slave was to supply the Army till Harvest, the Council and I had given general
Directions to the Purchasers to forward it to the Head of Elk; that it might be sent
forward for that Purpose, but on the Receipt of that Letter we wrote you the 26th April
praying you to exert yourself to dispatch the carriage and gave correspondent Orders, a
few Days before & after to the Purchasers. The Letter strongly conveys the Idea of its being
desirable, indeed necessary, to have the Slave in Philadelphia as soon as possible. I
also send you a copy of Mr. Morris's Letter of the 21st of April, received so late as the 30th.
The very Day of the Receipt of it we wrote Letters to all the principal Purchasers, com-
manding the former Orders and directing the Slave to be lodged at Sandings on either
Bay, as requested, except that which lay between the Head of Elk, which we desired to con-
tinue in the Mills, ready to be carried to Sandings on either Bay. We did not imagine the
countermanding Orders could possibly prevent, totally, the Effect of the first, which were
in a Way of Execution. Mr. Reisberg writes me, 11th May "Col^r. Hollingsworth D. D. M. G.
of Head of Elk was in Town last week, informing me you had requested him to take
charge of the Slave purchased by the Ammissearies in your State, I beg leave to mention
that we have an Ass't Commiss^r at that Post and that it would be in a proper Line for
him to receive the same or any other Kind of Provisions". It was improper to put the
Slave in that Line, after the Receipt of Mr. Morris's Letter. Mess^rs Reisberg & White were
here the other Day, they seemed desirous that Part, at least, of the Slave purchased
by the Govt. of our Appointm^t should be delivered over to the Commiss^r; but the Matter was
explained to them, that Mr. Morris's Order was necessary. We have lately directed, that
such Slave as was in Danger should be carried to Christeen and have wrote to Mr. Morris
to give Orders, as to the Disposition of it; we had given these Orders before the Receipt
of a Letter from the Board of War, which recommended the Removal of all Stores which
lay in insecure Places. I have been thus particular to show that from the Variety
of Orders given, none of them can reasonably be expected to have been punctually
or systematically executed, the prior being in Execution after the posterior had been
given in Philadelphia and before they could possibly go through our Hands and
reach those who we employ. I am much surprised that there should be any Doubt of Part
of the Slave having been purchased by Mr. Gilpin, because Mr. Morris mentioned, as an
Irregularity, one of our Purchasers having bought Slave in Philad^a. I have already
remitted to him for the Slave of the Slave, on much truer Principles than the injuri-
ous suspicion that it is owing to the bad conduct of our Purchasers. I would advise
you and Mr. Gilpin to take the Affidavits of such Persons as are acquainted with
the Facts or rather, if you can get them, to go with you to Philad^a; the most that can
be made of Mr. Gilpin's conduct in purchasing May's Slave, a Part of which was in
Philad^a, that as to such Part, the Purchase was irregular which yet does not affect
the same, and if that and the Slave you sent to Philad^a under our Orders, has
occurred your Brother's present Troubles, I cannot but think that all who have treated
him as you do, will be sorry they have proceeded to such Lengths on an ill
founded Suspicion. I am not acquainted with Mr. Govt. Morris, but I would have you lay
the Matter before him, his Rank and Character induce me to think he will contribute
all he can to ascertain the Truth and prevent your Brother's suffering for receiving the
Slave while in the Slave world. As to its being the property of the State, I have no Idea of
it, it was purchased by the Government and I have no Doubt but every Body who has had any
knowledge of it, has thought most to the Interest of the Govt. You would do
properly to let your Friends be sensible of the Inconveniences of giving a false Colouring to any. I hardly know
what to say to the States of New England, as they ought to depend on the Govt's being gone
and as you are here confined, we have nothing to do but to wait.